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Al Blaha Symposium Proposal

Al Blaha

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10-27-96

To Whom it May Concern,

I have just been informed about your conference on paper presentations on Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual issues. I would like to submit my idea for the following paper, which I am just about to begin. I hope you are interested.

The paper is for my Introduction to Psychology class and is about internalized homophobia. I plan to begin the paper with a definition of internalized homophobia and causes of internalized homophobia.

The main focus of my presentation will be relating internalized homophobia to Leon Festinger's theory of cognitive dissonance. This theory states (very basically) that any time a person has a belief or trait that is out of the norm, there is a resulting unpleasant internal state.

I think that cognitive dissonance can be an explanation of internalized homophobia. Also, I will relate the theory of cognitive dissonance to the changes in internalized homophobia among HIV positive gay men. I hope to include the differences in internalized homophobia of lesbians and gay men, but I'm not sure I'll be able to find enough information on this topic.

In conclusion, I will first analyze my own experiences with internalized homophobia to cognitive dissonance. I will also explore whether internalized homophobia is psychological or sociological. Finally, I hope to analyze whether internalized homophobia is inevitable in all homosexuals.

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at Beana
interesting before but
can not sure from
through it would
be

- note, this came in
w/ another from
Wisconsin

NO-Jan
RV-NC